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The swift changes in progress on the diplomatic chessboard of the near and far East have made many of the statements true six months ago already out of date. The discussion of Anglo-Russian relations both in Afghanistan and Persia no longer fits the case as is also true of a portion of the discussion on the status of Mesopotamian politics. The more permanent features, however, dealing with the strategic advantages and dangers of the Island Empire are well discussed and in a way that can be appreciated by the average man. Though written from a military viewpoint the book is readable from first to last. The author adopts the plan of stating facts rather than presenting argument, a method which proves thoroughly convincing to the reader.

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Ortuzar, Adolfo. *Chile of To-day.* Pp. 508. Price, \$5.00. New York: The Tribune Association, 1907.

In this work, which is compiled annually by the Consul-General of Chile in New York, an attempt is made to present in succinct form the progress of the Republic of Chile during the year. The author has collected a mass of valuable information which will be of great service to everyone interested in the South American affairs. The description of the progress in agriculture, industry and commerce, and particularly the remarkable strides made in the nitrate industry, will be a revelation to those who have not given special attention to Latin-American affairs. Another significant fact which is brought out by Mr. Ortuzar's description of the governmental system is that while there are sudden changes in the Chilean cabinet owing to the attempt to work a parliamentary system of government, the fundamental basis of the Chilean political system is firmly established. Although cabinets may change, in fact do change so rapidly that six months is deemed a long life for any one ministry, these changes do not affect the security of person and property. It would be most valuable if we could have such a series of year-books for every one of the South American countries.

The only suggestion to be made is that annuals such as these should be written in a more critical spirit. In reading Mr. Ortuzar's book one has the feeling that the idea of propaganda occupies too large a place in the preparation of the work. This tone is certain to arouse the feeling that it is intended as evidence in proof of Chile's importance. Because of this fact it is not likely to carry the same weight that it would have if the tone of the work were somewhat more judicial.

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